



2016 Direct Care Worker of the Year Award Information and Nominating Instructions

What is Care for Elders?

Care for Elders is a United Way initiative with more than 60 partners, including service providers, funding organizations, policy makers, businesses, and community leaders, dedicated to improving the quality of care and enhancing the quality of life for older adults in Harris County.

What is the Direct Care Worker of the Year Award?

Quality of care, regardless of the setting, rests in the hands of the front line, direct care worker. Direct care workers are in key positions to enrich the lives of older adults, helping them address their challenges and celebrate their blessings. With acknowledgement and respect for their critical role, Care for Elders is proud to present the **2016 Direct Care Worker of the Year Award at the 19th Annual Direct Care Workers Conference on April 19, 2016.**

Who is eligible?

1. Outstanding paraprofessional staff who directly serve older adults
2. Nominees must be affiliated with an agency/organization/facility that serves multiple clients.
3. Other staff members, such as nurses and social workers, are not eligible for this award.
4. Business owners, even if they provide hands-on care, and self-employed individuals serving clients are not eligible for this award.
5. Winners must be able to complete a W-9 before any cash awards are provided.

Who can nominate?

Anyone who has worked with the nominee for at least one year and is knowledgeable about the nominee's work can nominate. Examples of past individuals who have provided nominations are: supervisors, managers, co-workers, clients, and family members of clients. While multiple nominations of the same individual are welcome, winners will NOT be selected solely based on the number of nominations received. **Self-nominations are not accepted.**

How do I nominate someone?

We prefer the online form or a typed document, although handwritten entries will be accepted provided our committee members can read them. Please include the following information at the top:

- Nominee’s name, title, email (if possible), and phone number
- Place of employment
- Your name and relationship to the nominee
- Your email (if possible) and phone number

Entries should be no more than 2 pages, double spaced, and will be judged based on content, not grammar. Every nominee will be recognized at the Direct Care Workers Conference. **Nominations must be received by April 1, 2016.** **Include compelling examples of how the nominee demonstrates above and beyond commitment to improving quality of life for older adults.** The selection committee particularly is interested in honoring direct care workers who:

- Represent the best the field has to offer
- Demonstrate teamwork and initiative
- Maintain a positive attitude in the face of personal and professional adversity
- Are role models for other professionals
- Demonstrate good interpersonal skills and respect and compassion for others
- Are thoughtful about and make recommendations for improving service quality
- Demonstrate excellence and pride in his or her profession

Can I nominate multiple people?

Yes, as long as they meet the award criteria. Please submit separate nominations.

How are award recipients chosen?

A selection committee reviews all nominations and chooses the honorees.

What will the winners receive?

Each winner will receive an award and a cash prize at the 19th Annual Direct Care Workers Conference on April 19, 2016. All nominees will receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishment at being nominated. **It is important for award recipients to attend the conference.**

How do I submit the nomination?

By Email:

By Mail:

By Fax:

tmermelstein@unitedwayhouston.org

Care for Elders
50 Waugh Dr.
Houston, TX 77007

1-866-844-8043

What if I have additional questions?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Tammy Mermelstein, Conference Chair, at tmermelstein@unitedwayhouston.org or 713-685-2812.